Contents

About the Authors xix
Foreword by Cherylyn Harley LeBon xxi
Foreword by The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP xxiii
Acknowledgements xxv
Prologue xxvii

Introduction 1

1 Understanding the Effects of Overload: Information and Inundation 23

Left-brain process 25
Right-brain process 26
The overload 27
How it changes us 29
The algorithms make this worse 31
News is about profits, too 31
Is the overload hurting our creativity? 32
The sort of people we're becoming 33
The siren call of the numbers 34
Analysis versus parenthesis 38
Our socio-economic perspective also dictates our understanding 40
How this changes the leader's mandate 42
Spotting the signs of a waterboarded leader 43
Conclusions 45
Endnotes 46

2 Understanding a New Type of Economics: Internationalism and Insularity 47

Fear stalks the economic landscape 51
Fear has no respect for data 52

Offshore revelations 52
Avoiders and evaders 53
The wrong sort of data 54
So don't tell me there's no inflation 55
How inflation is hidden 56
Hedonics 57
The topography of inflation 58
Meet the cause of inflation – debt, debt and more debt 59
Bad leadership hides bad news 61
Nothing new under the sun 63
In office, but not in power 66
Is the Internet deflationary or inflationary? 68
Time to get nerdy 69
The ultimate solution to inflation – smash it up 71
Cryptocurrencies 72
A booming stock market 73
It's the same the whole world over/It's the poor what gets the blame/It's the rich what gets the pleasure/Ain't it all a bloomin' shame? 74
Living in the present, but destroying the future 76
Leadership implications of these economic changes 78
Conclusions 78
Endnotes 80

3 Understanding a New Type of Behaviour: Immediacy and Impatience 83

I want it now! 85
How we have become 'Amazonified' 90
The consistent rise in disposable incomes 94
Patience is not one virtue, but three 95
Patience as a key factor in efficiency 96
Impatience and stress 97
Can patience be learnt? 98
Impatience and relationships 100

The effect on politics, leadership and trust 100
The impatience for change, even just the perception of change 101
Impatience *is* the source of division 102
Conclusions 103
Endnotes 104

4 Understanding a New Philosophy: Intelligence and Insurgency 107

What is intelligence? 109
Intelligence as enlightenment 111
The axis of leadership challenge 111
Why (the f**k) is everyone so angry? 113
How bad is the problem? 114
The leadership opportunity 115
A new commercial opportunity, too? 116
Mainstream media make us angry 116
Social media make us angry, too 117
Disintermediation 119
The leader's critique 120
Rule 34 121
The case for mindfulness 122
Resolving conflict 124
Greed is good? 125
The ultimate selfishness 126
Empathy 127
The process of non-doing 127
The role of humour 128
Creative provenance 129
Conclusions 130
Endnotes 131

5 Understanding Geopolitics and the New Infrastructure: Infrastructure and Isolation 133

Geography is destiny 137

One Belt, One Road, One Circle (BRI) – a brand-new global infrastructure 137
The biggest infrastructure project the world has ever seen 138
Defence spending is rising 140
Old and new causes: but what about the wall? 142
A new multipolar world with walls 143
Conflicts cause migration and vice versa 144
Resource infrastructure 146
Environment in its widest sense 148
Protein 148
Energy and the end of oil 149
Centralization versus decentralization 151
Infrastructure is the new politics 152
Rules 153
Diplomacy 154
Conclusions 155
Endnotes 155

6 Understanding the Data Sphere: Innovation and Intimidation 159

The rise of the robots? 161
The Internet of Things 162
Introducing the Data Sphere 163
Artificial intelligence (AI) 163
The bodyNET 166
Autonomy 167
Drones 169
Energy and batteries 170
A new currency 171
Green stuff replaced by not very green stuff 173
Super computing 174
The dark web 175
Model citizens? 176
Peer group ratings 177

Human qualities 178
The end of the affair? 179
Conclusions 180
Endnotes 181

7 Understanding Gender: Inclusivity and Inequality 185

Assumptions 187
Understanding gender 188
Problems with the playing field 189
Are women more emotionally intelligent? 192
Do women collaborate more? 195
Introducing the LAB Brain Model 197
What is androcentricity? 199
Who was the internet built by and for whom? 200
Gender differences on social media 200
Overconfidence as a cause of our problems 202
Could it be the faster we move, the more superficial our perception becomes? 204
An inherent bias against diversity? 206
A war on men? 206
Training for confidence 207
Techniques for boosting confidence 207
Techniques for breaking the circle 208
Conclusions 208
Endnotes 209

8 Understanding a New World: Inspiration and Inversion 213

Through the looking glass 216
Can we trust our leaders? 217
A truly mixed reality 218
Should we still work hard and save? 219
Should we be patient and work together to get results? 219
Is education worth it? 220
Looking for a new domestic politics 221

KNIHOVNA
KNIHOVNA
VYSOKÁ ŠKOLA EKONOMICKÁ V PRAZE
Nam. W. Churchilla 4

Now our friends spy on us, too 222
Inversion and alignment 223
Is success always rewarded? 223
Is it only the bad guys who use torture? 225
Does morality matter? 225
Whatever happened to the future? 226
A new multipolar world with walls 227
Globalism is over 227
Conclusions 229
Endnotes 230

9 The Global Leaders' Narrative 233

Learn the lessons of the past 235
Study the present 238
Prepare for the future 240
Understand how skills and values have changed 243
Commit to the leadership spirit 243
Endnotes 250

Index 251